

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-58 are cancelled. Claims 59-76 are pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Election / Restrictions

The applicants note that, due to an oversight by the Examiner, the Restriction Requirement did not include the Preliminary Amendment filed October 27, 2003. However, to expedite this matter, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.142, Applicants elect Group II, without traverse. Applicants, however, reserve the right pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected invention during the pendency of the present application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that they are entitled to a letters patent. Applicants respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite the prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any question, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit account No. 23-2415 (Attorney Docket No. 12636-330.301) for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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